



## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen**

Date: April 9, 2018 – Business Meeting  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA  
Present: Chairman Pepe, Vice Chair Woodbury, Clerk Monette,  
Members Hicks and Stevens, and Administrator Gregory

At 6:07 p.m. Chairman Pepe called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Announcement**

**Any members that are participating remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law**

None

### **Meeting Minutes**

*A motion to approve the Business Meeting Minutes of February 26 and Workshop of March 19, 2018 (Hicks/Monette) passed 5/0.*

*A motion to approve the Business Meeting Minutes of March 12<sup>th</sup> as amended (Woodbury/Hicks) passed 5/0.*

### **Citizen Input**

Park Commissioner Bill Shemeth, 6 Dale St., asked the Board to fund the capital request for a tractor for O'Gara Park. It is important since the Highway Department does not mow this park.

Dr. Hicks asked if made sense to purchase a \$2,000 or \$3,000 tractor instead of the requested \$18,000 tractor. Mr. Woodbury agreed that \$18,000 is too high. Additional research will take place.

### **Communications:**

None

### **New Business:**

#### **6:00 p.m. National Grid Pole Hearing – Alta Crest Road – Plan #22698146**

Chairman Pepe opened the hearing at 6:00 pm and announced it would be continued on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 pm. There was no one present from National Grid.

#### **Discuss Polling Hours for May 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Election – Town Clerk Torti**

Town Clerk Laura Torti reported that polling hours have been set from 7 am to 8 pm for the past few years, but prior to that they were set at 12 pm to 8 pm for over ten years. It costs \$3,000 extra to open at 7 am and since there are no questions on the ballot and only one contested race, she wanted the board to be aware. The Board agreed it was worthwhile cost to incur to encourage as many voters as possible to come out. The polls will remain open from 7 am to 8 pm.

**Action Item: Vote on Request by the SEBRSD to place an article on the May 3 ATM Warrant to authorize acceptance of a Special Education Reserve Fund**

Administrator Gregory was asked by Mr. Suter to add a warrant article to create a

Special Education Reserve Fund which will be an emergency account that the District will fund in the future. If approved, it will require a majority approval from both Towns prior to disbursement.

*A motion to place an article on the May 3<sup>rd</sup> ATM Warrant to authorize the acceptance of a Special Education Reserve Fund (Monette/Hicks) passed 5/0*

**Action Item: Vote to Sign Memorandum of Understanding with CMRPC to Receive Assistance for Green Communities Designation**

A \$7,500 technical assistance grant is available for CMRPC to assist Spencer on the process of becoming a Green Community. Mr. Gregory noted it is a worthwhile endeavor which allows opportunities for future grant eligibility. The Town of Leicester recently adopted the Green Community designation. Further discussion will take place at the April 23 meeting.

**Old Business:**

**Update on the Landfill Solar Agreement with Citizens Energy**

Mr. Gregory reported that after thorough negotiations, the lease agreement with Citizens Energy has been finalized. This results in an additional \$320,000 annually over the twenty year period. The expected start date is January of 2019 and will net the Town \$160,000 in new revenue for the remainder of FY19. After Town Meeting approval, the Board will sign the agreement.

Dr. Hicks said he hope trees or some type of screening is planted on South Spencer Road. Mr. Woodbury said the Landfill Solar Committee did have not had that discussion with Citizens Energy, however believes they would be willing to work with the Town.

**Update on Browning Pond Road Access**

The Warrant Article asking the Town to accept a portion of Browning Pond Road has been removed. After conversations with Town Counsel and CMRPC, a different strategy is being pursued. CMRPC has ownership interest in the road and will assist in resolving the issue. A discussion will take place in executive session at a future meeting.

**Action Item: Vote to Approve the \$6M Road Improvement Bond Sale of April 4, 2018**

Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC was awarded the Road Bonds Bid with an interest rate of 2.954%. Treasurer Lacaire said it would not have been possible without the teamwork of Adam Gaudette, Bill Ross, Tom Gregory, Mary Carney, and Rebecca Forand.

*A motion to approve the \$6 million Road Improvement Bond Sale of April 4, 2018 (Woodbury/Hicks) passed 5/0.*

**Town Administrator's Report**

**Action Item: Review FY19 Budget & Finalize & Close Draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

Administrator Gregory noted that after receiving the final budget from the SEBRSD, he was able to close the budget gap by making adjustments, therefore resulting in balanced budget.

Mr. Gregory reviewed the Warrant Articles. There are a total of 33 Articles.

There was discussion on Article 12- SEBRSD Assessments. Mr. Suter said the District is finalizing the accreditation report. At this time they are operating with the bare minimum. The cost of Special Education is increasing at a rate higher than revenue received. Charter School reimbursement from the State has been reduced from 100% this fiscal year to 25% for next year.

Article 32 & 33- PEG Access and Cable related fund. Mr. Gregory explained that the current method of paying SCA is out of compliance with the DOR and is being made without an appropriation. State

guidance came out in 2016 to solve the issue and with the establishment of a Receipt for Appropriation Account to deposit Charter payments into and an appropriation will be made to Spencer Cable Access each year after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

*A motion to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant (Hicks/Monette) passed 5/0.*

*A motion to approve the Annual Town Meeting Warrant as written (Woodbury/Hicks) passed 5/0.*

**Action Item: Review SEBRSD FY19 Budget Final Budget & Vote on Assessment**

*A motion to approve the SEBRSD FY19 Budget Final Budget & Assessment (Hicks/Woodbury) passed 5/0.*

**Board Liaison Reports**

None

**Citizen Input**

Bill Shemeth asked the Board to have Bay Path be part of the budget hearing in FY2 to raise awareness on the details of their budget.

**Board Member and Staff Comments**

Mr. Monette suggested not printing the minutes in the future since members can read them via email. Dr. Hicks would prefer a hard copy.

A moment of silence was observed to honor of Father James Hoey who passed away on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Hicks noted that Father Hoey was the Pastor of Mary Queen of the Rosary for over 20 years and did much to better the community. He will be greatly missed.

**Future Agenda Items**

Chairman Pepe wants to plan a workshop in the near future to discuss a blight bylaw strategy and a policy for the Meritorious Service award in time for Fall Town Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie  
Administrative Assistant

**Referenced Materials** – National Grid Alta Crest Road Plan #22698146; MOU for Green Communities Designation; Annual Town Meeting Warrant